

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: /A

TAGS: CGEN, CASC, MX

SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL/DEPARTMENT INTERVIEWING TEAM

FOR WALENTYNOWICZ FROM JOVA

REF: MEXICO 4695

1. I APPRECIATED YOUR TELEPHONE CALL OF FRIDAY EVENING AND CAN ASSURE YOU ONCE AGAIN THAT WE HERE RECOGNIZE THE DEPTH OF THE PROBLEM AND THE FIRM IN OUR DESIRE TO WORK CLOSELY AND COOPERATIVELY WITH YOU IN FINDING A MUTUALLY AGREEABLE PROCEDURES REGARDING PRISONER INTERVIEWS. WHILE DIRECT CONGRESSIONAL STAFF PARTICIPATION IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE MEXICANS, WE BELIEVE THAT THE ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES, USING TEAMS COMPOSED OF THE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL THAT YOU HAVE FURNISHED US, WORKING TOGETHER WITH OWN CONSULAR OFFICERS SHOULD BE ABLE TO GIVE SATISFACTION. THE FOLLOWING WILL BRING YOU UP TO DATE ON DEVELOPMENTS.

2. I HAVE JUST TELEPHONED FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA WHO, AS YOU KNOW, LOST AND BURIED HIS MOTHER ON FRIDAY. HE WAS VERY APPRECIATIVE OF MY ATTENDANCE BOTH AT THE FUNERAL SERVICES AND AT THE GRAVESIDE (IN POURING RAIN AND MUD) AND FOR MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE RECEIVED FROM THE SECRETARY. ACCORDINGLY, THIS SET THE TONE FOR OUR CONSTRUCTIVE CON-VERSATION.

3. I TOLD RABASA THAT WE APPRECIATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO

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HAVE DULY ACCREDITED CONSULAR OFFICERS INTERVIEW THE

PRISONERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSULAR CONVENTION. WE ALSO APPRECIATED THE FLEXIBILITY HE HAD SHOWN IN MAKING THE PERSONAL INFORMAL SUGGESTION THAT IF WE ALSO DESIRED TO ACCREDIT CONGRESSIONAL STAFF MEMBERS AS CONSULAR OFFICERS, HE WOULD NOT QUESTION SUCH ACCREDITATION. AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION WE HAD CONSIDERED IT PREFERABLE NOT TO FOLLOW THIS COURSE BUT WE WERE ACCREDITING THREE BONA FIDE AND EXPERIENCED FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS ASSIGNED HERE ON TEMPORARY DUTY FROM THE DEPARTMENT AND WE HAD ALREADY SENT NOTES TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY REQUESTING RECOGNITION FOR THEM. RABASA WAS GRATIFIED AT THIS NEWS AND SAID THAT HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO ACCEPT SUCH ADDITIONAL CONSULAR OFFICERS AND WOULD EXTEND THEM APPROPRIATE FACILITIES.

4. I TOLD HIM THAT SOME OF THE NEW PEOPLE, WORKING IN TANDEM WITH OUR OWN CONSULAR OFFICERS WERE ALREADY VISITING THE PRISONS TO ASCERTAIN INFORMALLY WHETHER THE PRISONERS WOULD BE WILLING TO MAKE SWORN STATEMENTS ANSWERING THE APPROPRIATE QUESTIONS. SHOULD SUCH WILLINGNESS EXIST, WE WOULD THEN PROCEED AS PLANNED. I TOLD HIM THAT IT MIGHT PROVE NECESSARY AND USEFUL TO HAVE STENOGRAPHERS ACCOMPANY OUR TEAMS AT CERTAIN POINTS IN THE PROCEDURE. RABASA DID NOT SEEM TO THINK THAT THIS WOULD BE A PROBLEM. I DID NOT RAISE THE POSSIBILITY THAT OUR PEOPLE MIGHT BRING IN TAPE RECORDERS AS ALL OF US HERE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE BEST FOR THE TEAMS TO BRING IN SMALL TAPE RECORDERS AS A NATURAL ADJUNCT TO THEIR CONFERENCES WITH THE THOUGHT THAT THE PRISON AUTHORITIES WOULD ACCEPT THEM.

5. I AGREED WITH THE MINISTER THAT I WOULD BRING UNDER SECRETARY GALLASTEGUI UP TO DATE ON OUR CONVERSATIONS IN ORDER THAT SHOULD PROBLEMS ARISE WE MIGHT SEEK HIS HELP IF THE MINISTER WERE NOT AVAILABLE. I ALSO HAVE A CALL IN FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL OJEDA PAULLADA IN ORDER TO KEEP HIM ABREAST OF MATTERS.

6. ALL THESE STEPS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED BY OUR STAFF WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL STAFF VISITORS IN ORDER THAT THEY TOO MIGHT BE ABREAST OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES.
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